

CITY OF JERSEY CITY



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Jersey City to Celebrate the 25th Anniversary Of National Night Out Against Crime

*The Jersey City Police Department Will Join Residents in an Effort to
Fight for Safer Streets and Communities*

JERSEY CITY—On Tuesday August 5, 2008, Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy the **Municipal Council** and the **Community Relations Unit of the Jersey City Police Department** will host the **25th Anniversary of National Night Out**, a crime prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW). Events will take place simultaneously, from **6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.** in parks located in the four police districts: **Pershing Field** in the North, **Audubon Park** in the South, **Hamilton Park** in the East, and **Arlington Park** in the West.

National Night Out is celebrated by citizens, law enforcement agencies, community groups, businesses and local officials in more than 10,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide.

“We want our police officers and our constituents to be partners and work hand in hand to keep our community safe and peaceful,” said **Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy**. **Mayor Healy** will visit National Night Out locations to commend and acknowledge those individuals and groups who are providing invaluable services and resources to their community.

Each year, National Night Out encourages neighbors to come together, get acquainted, and have a fun-filled safe night to foster neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. There will be hotdogs, popcorn, bubble machines, clowns, balloons, refreshments, and plenty of entertainment, games, moonbounces and giveaways in each park. Characters such as McGruff the Crime Dog, Sponge Bob, Blues Clues, Pablo, Uniqua and Boots from Dora the Explorer will add cheer for young kids. Various community and service organizations will be on hand to provide information to the public.

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In the East district at **Hamilton Park**, Target, NNO National sponsor, will be present along with Z-100, the popular New York radio station. There will also be a basketball exhibition at 5 p.m., with the Hamilton Park Boys Grammar School All Stars to face Pershing Field Boys Grammar School All stars. At 6:30 p.m., the Hamilton Girls High School All Stars will go against the New York Girls High School all Stars and at 8 p.m., the Hamilton Park Boys High School will take on the East District Police Department.

Performing at **Audubon Park**, will be the Images Production Team, whose creative models will put on a fashion show. Renata Thomas, winner of the Creative Kids USA of Hudson County 2008 will be singing, and Donalia Jones, winner of the Hal Jackson Talented Teen of Hudson County 2008 will make a guest appearance. Also performing will be DJ Omar, spinning records and the Universal Ju-Jitsu Ryu in a special martial arts exhibition.

At **Pershing Field** in the Heights, there will be live entertainment and dance performances by the **Hope Center** along with the Newark Bears, Jang Star Tae Kwon Do, US Marine Corps, and free giveaways from the NJ Devils. In **Arlington Park**, the Team Walker Dancers will perform and the event will also feature 87.7 Pulse FM, cheerleaders and Tae Kwon Do exhibitions.

At **9p.m.**, Jersey City residents are encouraged to participate in **National Night Out** by **turning on their home or porch lights**. Churches are asked to **ring their bells** as a gesture of unity to support and promote safety in their neighborhoods.

Mayor Healy has always been a strong proponent of reducing crime and promoting safer streets. **Mayor Healy's Operation Lifesaver**, a gun buy-back and amnesty program, removed almost 900 guns off the streets. In conjunction with the Jersey City Police Department, the Mayor created the city's first **Anti-Gang Task Force**, as well as the **Senior Care Card Program** and the **Senior Police Academy** spearheaded by the **Community Relations Unit**. Other crime and safety initiatives supported by the Mayor include enforcing the business curfew, increasing the number of **Closed Circuit Televisions (CCTV)** in areas of high crime, and putting back police officers on foot and bike patrol.

The Community Relations Unit (CRU) is assigned to improving the effectiveness of the Police Department by facilitating a cooperative effort between the police and the community through various city-wide programs and services. **National Night Out** is one of the Community Relations Unit's most notable events. It heightens crime-prevention awareness and generates support for anti-crime programs.

Other CRU projects include the Senior Citizen Police Academy, Community Engagement Consortium, the Jersey City PAL partnership, Otto the Auto Child Safety Program, Bridging the Gap, gang awareness, and police recruitment.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.

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